

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Bel Art Products

#### Maryland Technology Extension Service

#### Bel-Air Products Adopts Lean Manufacturing Principles

##### Client Profile:

Bel-Art Products is a leading manufacturer of products for use in the laboratory. The company also serves the industrial, safety and educational science, and packaging industries. Bel-Art employs 125 people and is located in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

##### Situation:

In order to remain competitive in today's marketplace, Bel-Art realized that a Lean manufacturing and business strategy was essential. The company requested assistance from Maryland Technology Extension Service (MTES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, in the planning and implementation of Lean principles and concepts throughout the organization.

##### Solution:

MTES met with Bel-Art's World Class Coordinator to develop a plan to initiate the Lean process. The Wire Processing area, whose primary product line is wire laboratory racking, was selected as the model area to demonstrate the benefits of applying Lean principles, and also to serve as a model of the Lean improvement process which can be duplicated for product lines throughout the facility. A team of Bel-Art employees was selected and trained on Lean Manufacturing principles. The team brainstormed improvement opportunities and implemented the developed solutions.

##### Results:

- \* Improved workplace organization.
- \* Improved workflow.
- \* Improved product travel distance, lead time, and work-in-process inventory by 50 percent.
- \* Increased labor productivity by 20 percent.

##### Testimonial:

"The program continues to show success. The above results are accurate."

Karen Bodewes, Director of Quality Assurance